

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 92

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to strongly encourage the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to support the license application of the Tennessee Valley Authority related to the safe operation of Watts Bar Unit 2.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is the nation's largest public utility, providing electricity for business customers and local power distributors, serving 9 million people in parts of seven southeastern states; and

WHEREAS, TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation, and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation; and

WHEREAS, TVA is currently working to complete Unit 2 at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Spring City; and

WHEREAS, once operational, Watts Bar Unit 2 will produce the first new nuclear generation of the 21st century in the United States—generation that is low-cost and carbon-free; and

WHEREAS, the last new nuclear generation of the 20th century in the United States was Watts Bar Unit 1, which came online in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Watts Bar Unit 2 will generate 1,150 megawatts of electricity—enough to power about 650,000 homes; and

WHEREAS, the completion of Watts Bar Unit 2 is a significant economic development project for the southeast, having employed over 3,200 skilled laborers in its

construction; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the Watts Bar Unit 2 project is projected to be between \$4.0 billion and \$4.5 billion; and

WHEREAS, TVA is completing the work at Watts Bar Unit 2 with a focus on the safety of the public and workers; and

WHEREAS, Watts Bar Unit 2 will be one of the first nuclear plants in the United States to meet new Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regulations established after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that struck Fukushima Nuclear Plant in Japan; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the focus of the project workforce, the quality of work conducted on the Watts Bar Unit 2 project remains high; and

WHEREAS, TVA will soon request a license from the NRC to operate Watts Bar Unit 2 in a safe and reliable manner; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we strongly encourage the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to support the license application of the Tennessee Valley Authority related to the safe operation of Watts Bar Unit 2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the office of the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Authority and Justin Poole, NRC Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.